

TENBURY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1949

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

1949

TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

<i>Name of Parishes.</i>					<i>Councillors.</i>
BAYTON	...	...	...	...	E. EVANS.
BOCKLETON		...	...	...	MISS PRESCOTT.
EASTHAM	...	...	...	...	K. D. BRIGGS.
HANLEY	...	...	...	...	P. KERBY.
KNIGHTON-ON-TEME			...	...	REV. A. P. RANDLE. J. BATLEY.
KYRE	...	...	...	...	REV. J. K. H. THOMAS.
LINDRIDGE		...	...	...	COL. E. G. WALLACE. C. H. C. PARTRIDGE.
MAMBLE	...	...	...	...	B. DAVIES.
PENSAX	...	...	...	...
ROCHFORD		...	...	...	W. G. MAUND (Chairman).
STANFORD WITH ORLETON			...		H. MORRIS.
STOCKTON	...	...	...	...	CAPT. A. ASTLEY JONES.
STOKE BLISS	...	...	...	...	A. LAWRENCE.
TENBURY	...	...	...	...	M. G. ROLLO (Vice-Chairman). W. MIDDLETON. H. JONES. J. E. BUFTON. C. RICHARDS.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
SURVEYOR, SANITARY INSPECTOR, WATERWORKS ENGINEER	J. E. PARKINSON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Tenbury Rural District Council.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1949.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,250
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population, mid 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,600
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,717
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£18,125
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£72/8/2

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

...

The District comprises fourteen parishes, and is entirely rural in character, except for the market town of Tenbury. Agriculture, including fruit and hop growing, is the chief industry and provides work for the majority of the adult male population.

A varying number of men are employed at a number of small coal pits on the borders of the area.

During the autumn months the population is increased by fruit and hop-pickers, mostly women and children, who are brought into the district and accommodated in special quarters on the farms.

There are many small holdings in the area, and the amount of unemployment varies very little.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

					Males.	Females.	Total. 1949	Total 1948
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	36	56	92	93
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	5	2	7	6
Total	...	...	...	...	41	58	99	99
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population							17.7	17.6
Birth Rate for England and Wales							16.7	17.9

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births)							18.2	31.1

DEATHS

					40	38	78	67
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population							13.9	11.9
Death Rate for England and Wales							11.7	10.8

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Puerperal Sepsis				0	0
Other Puerperal Causes				0	0

INFANT MORTALITY under one

year of age:					2	2	4	3
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DEATH RATE OF INFANTS

under one year of age:

All Infants per 1,000 live births							40.4	30.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000								
Legitimate live births							32.6	32.2
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales							32	34

	Total 1949	Total 1948
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	14	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	1	0

CAUSES OF DEATH

Reference No.		Male	Female
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	2
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	0
14.	Cancer of the Stomach and Duodenum	2	3
15.	Cancer of the Breast	0	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites	5	3
18.	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	6	9
19.	Heart Diseases	9	9
21.	Bronchitis	5	3
22.	Pneumonia	1	1
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	0
25.	Diarrhoea under two years	0	1
28.	Nephritis	2	1
31.	Premature Birth	1	0
32.	Con. mal. birth mj. infant dis.	0	1
35.	Other Violent Causes	0	1
36.	All other Causes	5	2
		<hr/> 40	<hr/> 38

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES in the AREA

In carrying out my duties as Medical Officer of Health of the area I have the assistance and co-operation of Mr. J. E. Parkinson, who has been Sanitary Inspector of the area since May, 1932, and who is also Building Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer for the area.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is the responsibility of the Worcester County Council as "Local Health Authority." The ambulance is stationed at Tenbury.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The County Council Laboratory at Worcester undertakes the examination of food, milk and water. All other bacteriological and pathological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

HOSPITALS

The Tenbury Hospital is quite close to the town, and though, being on the other side of the river, it is actually in Burford, Salop, it receives cases chiefly from the town and district of Tenbury.

The Hospital has fifteen beds for medical and surgical cases, and one cot, and is very well equipped.

For Infectious Diseases the Worcester Isolation Hospital is used.

The Blakebrook Hospital at Kidderminster is also available, and for Maternity cases accommodation is provided in three Maternity Hospitals.

All hospitals are the responsibility of the Midland Regional Hospital Board.

TUBERCULOSIS

Dispensary and sanatorium treatment is provided by the Regional Hospital Board. The nearest hospital dispensaries are Kidderminster General Hospital and Worcester.

The Local Health Authority are responsible for prevention and aftercare and the administration is undertaken by the Aftercare Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Health Committee.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Treatment and supervision is arranged at the nearest hospital centre, i.e. Kidderminster General Hospital and Worcester Royal Infirmary.

NURSING IN THE HOME

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also act as Midwives and carry out the duties of Health Visitors.

Two of these Nurses live at Tenbury Hospital, the other two residing in outlying parishes, and their work is so apportioned as to cover the entire area.

The administration of this service is the responsibility of the Local Health Authority.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

Regular samples of the supply to the town of Tenbury have been taken and have proved satisfactory on analysis. The quantity is variable and requires to be augmented at times. No contamination occurred during the year.

The water is not plumbo solvent, but has an aggressive action on zinc and wrought iron, requiring the use of lead or copper piping. (See full report by Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer).

Many of the large number of wells and springs and small private piped supplies have proved unsatisfactory on analysis. The consumers are advised what action to take according to the individual circumstances.

The scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, for the piping of water from the Elan Aqueduct (City of Birmingham) to adjacent parts of the area was submitted to the Minister for his approval last year and is still "under consideration."

Number of houses supplied from Public Mains :

Parish.	No. of houses supplied from Stand-pipe Taps.	No. of houses supplied direct from Mains.
TENBURY	34	364
KNIGHTON-ON-TEME	Nil	Nil
LINDRIDGE	Nil	Nil
MAMBLE	Nil	Nil
PENSAX	Nil	Nil
BAYTON	Nil	Nil
STOCKTON	Nil	Nil
STANFORD	Nil	Nil
EASTHAM	Nil	Nil
HANLEY	Nil	Nil
ROCHFORD	Nil	Nil
KYRE	Nil	Nil
STOKE BLISS	Nil	Nil
BOCKLETON	Nil	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

1. Tenbury Town.

The unsatisfactory conditions described in previous reports remain as described except that the outfall following Kyre Brook has further deteriorated.

A scheme for the provision of new sewers and an outfall works has not yet been placed before the Council for consideration and no progress can be reported.

It is to be hoped that the Council will press forward with this much needed improvement.

2. Rural District.

Conditions described in previous reports remain little changed. No new drainage systems were installed apart from those in connection with new houses.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The only serious pollution known to be occurring is that of the River Teme and Kyre Brook at Tenbury.

SCHOOLS

No major improvements have been carried out to existing schools and the sanitary accommodation and washing facilities remain below standard.

At Tenbury Senior School two new buildings of the single storey type have been constructed on the new school site, so relieving overcrowding at the old school. The site is pleasantly elevated and the buildings are proving most satisfactory.

Several schools have been redecorated with considerable benefit.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

During the year fourteen houses at Frogs Close (Pembroke Avenue), Tenbury, were completed.

At the end of the year work was well advanced on the construction of eight houses at Eastham and six at Bayton. One house was built by private

enterprise. Construction of the Woodgates Green site could not be commenced owing to difficulty in obtaining a satisfactory report on the water supply.

At the end of the year there were two hundred and one applications for Council houses in the district.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

- 1. Milk Supply.
 - 2. Meat and other Foods.
- See Report of Sanitary Inspector.
No outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATIONS

During the year I have received notifications of the following cases :

	Cases	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	7	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	1	Nil	Nil
Measles	103	Nil	Nil
Acute Pneumonia	1	Nil	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil	Nil
Food Poisoning	1	Nil	Nil

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The importance of immunisation against diphtheria in infancy and the need for a reinforcing dose on reaching school age has been explained to parents. Immunisation is carried out at each session in the Welfare Centre and during my visits to the schools. The response has been quite good, but there is room for improvement.

- Number of children under 5 who received Primary Courses 81
 - Number of children over 5 who received Primary Courses 20
 - Number of children who received Reinforcing doses 58
- No case of diphtheria occurred during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Two cases were notified during the year (four in 1948).

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1949

Age Period	NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			
	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	M.	F.		
0						
1						
5						
15						
25	...	1	...			...		
35	...	1	...			...	1			
45	1					
55						
65						
	...	0	2	...	0	0	...	0	2	...	0	0

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

There were in the register at the end of the year the following cases of Tuberculosis :—

Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.		
M.		F.	M.		F.
13	...	12	9	...	9

CONCLUSION

The provision of more houses in the district still remains the outstanding problem facing the Council. Those houses completed or nearing completion will help to relieve the needs of the parishes concerned, but the situation in the district as a whole remains acute. It is more evident as time goes on how much domestic difficulty and even illness, springs from lack of proper living accommodation.

I wish to thank the Chairman, Members of the Council and staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,
Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the Tenbury Rural District Council.

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1949.

WATER

The town of Tenbury is supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of this supply is situated at Clee Hill, the water being drawn from the Millstone Grit formations there.

A connection between the Birmingham Water Conduit from Elan Valley and the Tenbury intake chamber gives a supplementary supply. The effects of increase or decrease in the rate of intake from Tenbury's source can be rectified by the turn of a valve on the supplementary supply connection.

As regards the rural parts of the district, in which there is not a sizeable village, although there are a few private piped supplies, generally the mode of supply is by Wells and Springs.

TENBURY WATERWORKS

During the early months of the year the yield at the Springs at Studley fell off and it was necessary to supplement the supply from the Birmingham Conduit. There were further decreases in the rate of intake from the Springs during the late summer and by the end of September, the daily yield was down to 32,000 gallons. However, the supply to the town was satisfactorily maintained.

MAINS IMPROVEMENTS

Gravity Main—Parish of Nash

The scheme which I prepared in 1948 for diverting a portion of the gravity main in the Parish of Nash was approved by the Ministry of Health late in the year. The necessary materials were ordered and delivery promised for June, 1950.

Water Main, Teme Bridge, Tenbury

During the year I prepared a scheme for laying a 6in. water main on brackets over Teme Bridge to replace the old existing portion of 5in. main which lies in the bed of the river. The tender of Messrs. Whittaker, Ellis, Ltd., was accepted and work was expected to begin early in 1950.

Renewing Mains—Church Street, Cross Street, Bromyard Road, Tenbury

Plans and specifications were prepared and tenders obtained for the work of improving the supply to the southern area of Tenbury town and Old Wood. The scheme includes replacing the old and small diameter mains in Church Street and Cross Street by a 5in. main and in Bromyard Road by a 4in. main.

TENBURY TOWN WATER—ANALYSES

Copies of analyses of two samples taken in the year are as follows:—

Sample of Town Water, 6th April, 1949.

Physical Characters	...	...	Clear.	
Odour	...	...	None.	
Deposit	...	...	Slight brown	pH 7.3

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100° C)	...	...	...	Trace
Solids in Solution (Dried at 100° C)	...	...	...	13
Solids in Solution. After Ignition	...	...	...	9
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	...	2.6
Hardness—Permanent	...	...	...	2
„ Temporary	...	...	...	6
„ Total	...	...	...	8
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0008
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.002
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...	Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	...	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C (N/80 Permanganate)	...	...	...	0.01
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected

NOTE.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar

(a) In two days at 37° C	...	...	...	2 per one ml.
(b) In three days at 22° C	...	...	...	6 per one ml.
Coli-aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count	...	...	...	Nil per 100 ml.

The sample is fit for drinking.

Sample of Town Water, 2nd November, 1949.

Physical Characters	...	...	Opalescent.
Odour	...	...	None.
Deposit	...	...	Brown. pH 7.1

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100° C)	...	...	...	Trace
Solids in Solution (Dried at 100° C)	...	...	...	11
Solids in Solution. After Ignition	...	...	...	7
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	...	1.5
Hardness—Permanent	...	...	...	2
„ Temporary	...	...	...	3
„ Total	...	...	...	5
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0008
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0044
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...	None
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	...	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C (N/80 Permanganate)	...	...	...	0.092
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected

NOTE.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar

(a) In two days at 37° C	...	...	...	...	6 per one ml.
(b) In three days at 22° C	...	...	...	...	60 per one ml.
Coli-aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count	...	...	...	...	Nil per 100 ml.

The sample is fit for drinking.

WATER SUPPLIES—NEW HOUSING SITES

Woodgates Green, Knighton-on-Teme

A borehole for supplying a new housing site here was completed. The depth of bore is 200 feet. It was test-pumped for four days and the actual yield was 130 gallons per hour.

Eastham Housing Site

A borehole of 110 feet was completed on this site. The bore was test-pumped for four days at 250 gallons per hour with depression of water level to 90 feet below the surface. Water recovered to rest level (i.e. 25 feet below surface) in one hour.

Housing Site, Newnham Bridge

On this site a borehole was sunk to a depth of 80 feet. Test-pumping was carried out for three days at 600 gallons per hour, but the water level depression was not ascertained. The rest level was 10 feet.

WATER—OTHER SUPPLIES

Forty-two samples of water from wells and springs were taken for examination during the year. A large number were found to be defective in quality and in these cases appropriate action was taken.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The conversion to the water carriage system of a large number of pail closets in the township of Tenbury is long overdue. In this connection a large number of pails have to be collected from houses in the streets of Tenbury. Apart from the many other objectionable and insanitary aspects, it becomes increasingly difficult to find labour for this unpleasant job.

The installation of a new sewerage system in the town of Tenbury and the provision of outfall works for the treatment of sewage before it enters River Teme is also an urgent matter.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

In Tenbury town, collections of refuse are made at least once weekly and in the rural parishes once every three weeks. The scheme works fairly satisfactorily.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

VERMINOUS AND DIRTY PREMISES

Three cases were dealt with under this heading.

During the year several fly infestations were dealt with in the district. Most of the trouble arose from large numbers of flies collecting in the roof spaces to dwellings. Excellent results were obtained by dusting with D.D.T. and spraying with "Vermicine."

RODENT CONTROL

The services of a part-time Rodent Operative were available during the year and advantage was taken of the grant aid scheme.

Number of Infestations dealt with at private houses	...	...	...	17
Number of Infestations dealt with at business premises	...	...	...	4
Number of other Infestations dealt with	...	...	...	3

INNS AND REFRESHMENT HOUSES. Sanitary Accommodation

Refreshment Houses, Inns and other Public Houses in the district were inspected with a view to ascertaining the condition of and the improvement of sanitary accommodation.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Thirty-one visits of inspection to factories were made, the defects dealt with were as follows :

Water Closets	...	...	...	...	3
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	1
Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	5
Nuisance from Cellulose Spraying	...	...	...	...	1

PARTICULARS OF OTHER SANITARY MATTERS DEALT WITH

House Drainage, etc. (Excluding New Houses)

New Drainage Provided:

(a) To Sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(b) To Cesspool	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number trapped, ventilated and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Number of obstructed drains dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Number of insanitary lavatories, sinks, and urinals dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Number of additional W.C.'s installed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defects to Sewer remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Offensive accumulations dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisances arising from dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other nuisances dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Visits in connection with Tenbury Waterworks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	404
Visits in connection with New Housing Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Other visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	195
Letters written during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1048

HOUSING

Number of houses erected during the year :

(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
(ii) By the County Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	!

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	223
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	339
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	14
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	38
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	14

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	...	47
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3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	14
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—			
(a) By owners	...	...	6
(b) By Local Authority	...	...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts (Housing only) :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—Informal	...	51
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—		
(a) By owners	...	1
(b) By Local Authority	...	Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	None
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	None

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part 4 Overcrowding:

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	Not known
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2	
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4	

FOOD.

MILK

There were, in the year, one hundred and sixteen producers in the district, but the number of large dairying farms is not high. Some defects to structures, lighting and ventilation of cowsheds and dairies were dealt with.

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944 came into operation on the 1st October of this year and had the effect, among other things, of transferring from Local Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture certain powers and duties in connection with the control of production premises.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

Except for emergency slaughter, the six slaughter houses in the district were not used. Since early in the war, meat has been supplied from a central abattoir outside the district.

Butchers' premises were regularly inspected, as also were vans which conveyed the meat into the district.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

During the year one hundred and fifty three pounds of foodstuffs were found unfit for human consumption.

HOUSING—COUNCIL HOUSES

Fourteen new houses were completed during the year and at the end of the year the Council had 150 occupied houses in their district.

A further fourteen houses were in course of erection; eight in the parish of Eastham and six at Bayton.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947

The work in connection with the above is carried out by my Department.

During the year 38 applications to develop were dealt with. Twenty-six applications were approved and three were refused. In no case was there an Appeal to the Minister of Town and Country Planning.

PLANS APPROVED (Under Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 and Building Byelaws)

New Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Alterations and Improvements to Housing Accommodation	...								5
Plans other than Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		27

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING (Defence Regulation 56a)

There has been some relaxation in the control of building operations and consequently the work during the year under this heading has not been so heavy as in past years.

Seventeen Licences were issued covering works to the value of £13,065.

HOP-PICKERS' ACCOMMODATION

There are in the district 18 hop-growers and accommodation was provided at 20 premises.

Circular letters were sent to growers during the months of May and July. Each grower was provided with a copy of the Byelaws.

Each year a point is made of visiting hop farms two or three weeks before the arrival of pickers, whilst there is still time for growers to rectify defects and deficiencies which may be pointed out. This year the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Markham, and myself visited farms during early August.

On the 13th September, Major-Gen. W. R. Dimond, one of the Medical Officers of the Ministry of Health, visited and inspected hop farms in the district. He was accompanied by Dr. R. W. Markham and myself. A report was received from the Ministry later in the year and copies of extracts from the report were sent to growers concerned.

During the season, frequent systematic inspections of the accommodation provided for pickers were carried out.

Good weather is, perhaps, one of the most important factors among the things which go to make hop-picking a success, both for the grower and the picker. The 1949 season, in this respect, was fairly favourable and there were some glorious days during the early part of September.

No formal action was taken under the Byelaws in force in the district for securing the decent lodging and accommodation of hop-pickers and other persons engaged temporarily in picking, gathering or lifting fruit, flowers, bulbs, roots or vegetables in the Rural District of Tenbury.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman, Members of the Council, fellow Officers and Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. E. PARKINSON,

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer.

